



# INSIDE GARDNER

Your Community

November - December 2013

## City Enhances Digital Communications

The City of Gardner is in the process of enhancing and expanding its digital communications presence. During the 2014 Budget process, the Governing Body identified four strategic goals for the City: promote economic development, improve quality of life, fiscal stewardship and infrastructure/asset management. By focusing on expanding digital communication tools, the City is able to address all of these goals. While some of these tools will expand on current efforts, others will take the place of traditional paper methods.



### Website

In 2010, the City introduced its current website of [www.gardnerkansas.gov](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov). Included in the 2014 Budget is funding to begin the process of updating this site. Citizens can look forward to a fresh look, readily accessible information and mobile access.

In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department recently introduced a new electronic activities and events calendar, which provides up-to-date information on programs and events being offered. Activities are linked to associated webpages so citizens can now easily navigate to the information they are interested in. This calendar also replaces the printed Activity Guide that was previously mailed to all residents. Citizens can access the new activities and events calendar via [www.gardnerkansas.gov/parks](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/parks).

In October, the Parks and Recreation Department also introduced an updated software registration program. Citizens can now register for activities and events online without being charged a convenience fee.

### Social Media

The City of Gardner has been active on Twitter and Facebook since 2011, but is now in the process of expanding its social media presence. Both the Gardner Police Department and Parks and Recreation Department recently introduced Facebook pages that highlight their roles within the community. Follow the City on Twitter @GardnerKansas and "like" the following Facebook pages for the most up-to-date information on City news, events, projects and more:

- City of Gardner, KS Government
- Gardner Police Department
- Gardner Parks and Recreation

## Public Works...Working For You - Snow Removal



Weather extremes and changes bring significant challenges to the Public Works employees who are responsible for making sure your streets are usable in the winter months. The City's snow removal program is designed to utilize our available resources effectively and economically. These resources include long labor hours, special equipment, and chemicals such as salt and calcium chloride. Our snow and ice policy is intended to keep vehicular traffic moving at a safe and constant speed.

When a storm is forecast, the Public Works staff formulates a plan of action that takes into account the time of day, type of weather, temperature, wind, expected length of the storm, etc. If ice or only light snow occurs (less than 2"), and plowing is not required, city trucks will spot-treat with materials only.

*Continued on Page 3...*

## ICMA Longevity Award

City Administrator, Ms. Cheryl Harrison-Lee, recently received a ten-year service award from ICMA (International City/County Management Association), the premier local government leadership and management organization. Ms. Harrison-Lee's achievement was celebrated at a special ceremony during the 99th ICMA Annual Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

ICMA Service Awards recognize and celebrate members' dedication to public service and professional management at the local level. Awards are based on the number of years of full-time employment in local government.



Ms. Harrison-Lee is qualified by ten years of professional local government experience. Prior to joining the City of Gardner, she served the Cities of Orlando, Daytona Beach and Ormond Beach, Florida.

## Protecting Your Vehicle



As the temperatures begin to drop going into the winter months, the Gardner Police Department wants to remind residents to use caution when leaving your car unattended and idling to warm up. This is the priceless moment when thieves will take advantage of a running, unattended vehicle for their own convenience and use. Experts estimate that one vehicle is stolen every 27 seconds in the United States. Stolen vehicles are often used to commit other crimes and only about 65 percent of stolen vehicles are ever recovered.

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A newsletter published for the residents of the City of Gardner  
City Hall • 120 E. Main St.  
Gardner, KS 66030 • 856-0939

# Mayor's Message to Gardner Residents



Greetings fellow citizens,

As autumn gives way to winter and it slowly turns colder in Gardner, Kansas, you will all soon begin planning for the holiday season; a time of joy, goodwill and giving.

On Monday, December 2nd, we will be hosting our annual Christmas in the Park to kick-off the holiday season. Please come out and join your friends and neighbors at Cornerstone Park to sing carols with scores of students throughout our school district and watch as we light up the park for the 23rd straight year.

This year we will also be sponsoring the Christmas for Children program through the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund for the 4th straight year with help from Margaret Drovetta and other community volunteers. Our citizens have large hearts filled with good tidings and giving, and we look forward to spreading cheer to those whose holiday may be less bright without the generosity of those who live in and around Gardner.

Looking forward to 2014 makes me reflect on the many blessings we enjoy here in Gardner. This community is warm and wonderful, compassionate and thoughtful, and filled with a can-do spirit and a devotion to the welfare of others. I pray every member of our community enjoy a safe and joyous Christmas day, holiday season and a happy new year in 2014.

Best regards,

## Calendar of Meetings

Nov	4	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Nov	7	Electric Utility Board Meeting - 7:00 PM
<b>Nov</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>City Hall Closed in Observance of Veterans Day</b>
Nov	18	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Nov	18	Electric Utility Board Work Session - 7:00 PM
Nov	26	Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM
<b>Nov</b>	<b>28-29</b>	<b>City Hall Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving</b>
Dec	2	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Dec	5	Electric Utility Board Meeting - 7:00 PM
Dec	16	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Dec	16	Electric Utility Board Work Session - 7:00 PM
Dec	17	Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM
<b>Dec</b>	<b>24-25</b>	<b>City Hall Closed in Observance of Christmas</b>

## Gardner City Council

### Chris Morrow, Mayor

913-269-8495 (Cell)  
cmorrow@gardnerkansas.gov

### Kristy Harrison, Council President

913-884-2115 (Home)  
kharrison@gardnerkansas.gov

### Larry Fotovich, Council Vice President

913-856-4458 (Home)  
lfotovich@gardnerkansas.gov

### Heath Freeman, Council Member

913-908-2627 (Cell)  
hfreeman@gardnerkansas.gov

### Tory Roberts, Council Member

913-449-5522 (Cell)  
troberts@gardnerkansas.gov

### Steve Shute, Council Member

913-938-6887 (Cell)  
sshute@gardnerkansas.gov

Messages may also be left for any  
Council Member or the Mayor at  
913-856-0939

## City Management

### City Administrator

#### Cheryl Harrison-Lee

charrison-lee@gardnerkansas.gov  
913-856-0939

### Community Development Director

#### Michael Hall

mhall@gardnerkansas.gov  
913-856-0913

### Finance Director

#### Laura Gourley

lgourley@gardnerkansas.gov  
913-856-7535

### Parks & Recreation Director

#### Jeff Stewart

jstewart@gardnerkansas.gov  
913-856-0936

### Police Chief

#### Gerry Cullumber

gcullumber@gardnerkansas.gov  
913-856-7312

### Public Works Director

#### Brian Faust

bfaust@gardnerkansas.gov  
913-856-0914

### Electric Utility Director

#### William Krawczyk

bkrawczyk@gardnerkansas.gov  
913-856-7256

# Items of Note, Project Updates & Community Information

## KSGFOA Conference Presentation

On October 17th, Finance Director Laura Gourley participated in a joint budget presentation at the Kansas Government Finance Officers Association (KSGFOA) Fall Conference. The workshop titled “The Budget Process: A Tale of Two Cities” also included Emily Vincent, Budget Director of Olathe, Kansas, and moderator Benjamin Hart, of Allen, Gibbs and Houlik.

Olathe and Gardner were chosen for the workshop as each city represents a separate end of the priority-based budgeting spectrum, with Gardner just beginning and Olathe having multiple years of experience with the process. Ms. Gourley and Ms. Vincent each gave an overview on how their cities utilized the priority-based budgeting process, followed by a question and answer session with attendees.



Ms. Gourley noted during her presentation that the City of Gardner chose priority-based budgeting in order to be more proactive versus reactive, involve community input, establish vision and strategic goals and align City resources with those goals.

Pictured above, from left to right, are: Emily Vincent, Benjamin Hart and Laura Gourley

View the 2014 Adopted Budget at [www.gardnerkansas.gov/budget](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/budget)

...Snow Removal - Continued from Page 1

The city reminds residents to remove parked vehicles from the roadway when snow is predicted. Snow removal is more thoroughly accomplished if vehicles and other equipment are removed from the curb.

The City is divided into four (4) quadrants, with four (4) levels of snow treatment/removal:

### Priority 1

Thoroughfare & Arterial Roads: plowed by single-axle dump trucks continuously during snowfall

### Priority 2

Collector & Main-line Residential Roads: plowed by single-axle dump trucks continuously during snowfall

### Priority 3

Local Residential Streets: plowed after Priority 2 is completed, beginning after snowfall ends

### Priority 4

Cul-de-sacs: plowed after snowfall and after Priority 2 and 3 streets are cleared.

For more information, please contact the Streets Division at (913) 856-0922 or visit [www.gardnerkansas.gov/snow\\_ice\\_removal/](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/snow_ice_removal/).

## Christmas in the Park

The 23rd Annual “Christmas in the Park” holiday event kicks off with the Mayor’s Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, December 2, 2013, at Cornerstone Park. Seasonal music will be performed by area school children. The event will include a Christmas time message from Mayor Chris Morrow, as well as a visit from Santa himself. One lucky individual will be selected to flip the switch that turns on thousands of beautiful lights throughout Cornerstone. To cap the festivities, Santa’s Workshop will open to all boys and girls who wish to see Santa and Mrs. Claus and their elves in action!

### Santa’s Workshop

Moms and Dads, bring the whole family to this place full of holiday joy! Children will have the opportunity to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and share their Christmas wishes, see the elves in action and receive a commemorative ornament and candy cane. Santa’s Workshop will open immediately following the Mayor’s Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and will re-open for the following dates: December 8th and 15th.



## Upcoming Parks and Recreation Activities and Events

Youth Programs	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
Christmas in the Park	December 2	N/A	Any	Free
Santa’s Workshop	December 2, 8, 15	N/A	Any	Free
Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt	December 13	December 11	2-10 years	\$3.00
Breakfast at the North Pole	December 14	N/A	Any	\$5.00 - City Hall \$6.00 - Door
Jingle Bell Shop	December 15	December 11	3-12 years	\$2 - \$5 Items
Little Ballers Basketball	Jan 10 - Feb 21	November 22	Pre-K - 1st grade	\$50.00
Adult / Family Programs	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
Snow Sculpture Contest	November - March 31	N/A	Any	Free
Christmas Lights Contest	December 11, 12	December 10	Any	\$5.00
Women’s Basketball	January 12	January 3	18 and Up	\$350.00
Men’s Basketball	January 15	January 3	18 and Up	\$350.00

Additional program information can be found by visiting [www.gardnerkansas.gov/programs\\_activities/](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/programs_activities/).



City of Gardner  
120 E. Main Street  
Gardner, Kansas

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**POSTAL PATRON  
GARDNER, KS 66030**

**Gardner Historical Museum—Upcoming Events**

**Hours:**

*Gardner Historical Museum - 204 W. Main St.*

Saturday through Tuesday: 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Friday: 4:00 to 7:00 PM

*The Bray House - 207 W. Shawnee St.*

Saturday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Call 913-856-4447 to schedule a tour.

Admission is FREE (donations appreciated)



This November and December, visit the Museum and Bray House to enjoy historical holiday decorations and do some shopping! Gift ideas include books, such as *Wonders, Wisdom & Wisecracks* and *The Jayhawker*, historical coloring books and special military souvenirs. Gift certificates are also available!

**2013 Mayor's Christmas for Children Program**

The City of Gardner will again support the Mayor's Christmas for Children Program. This program is open to all families who may need assistance with providing gifts for their children this Christmas season.

Children from pre-school through Grade 12 are eligible. Qualifications are residency in the USD 231 school district and qualifying income guidelines.



Information letters and applications are available now at Gardner City Hall and the Johnson County Multi-Service Center. The final screening will be held on Saturday, November 16th in the Gardner City Hall Lobby. Please bring any necessary documents for proof of residency and proof of income to these screenings.

If you have questions, please call 913-856-0938 and leave a message or email [drovettam@yahoo.com](mailto:drovettam@yahoo.com).

**New at the Gardner Library this Fall**



Help us celebrate 75 of distinguished picture books! The first Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children was awarded in 1938 to *Animals of the Bible*, illustrated by Dorothy P. Lathrop.

Bring the kids and stop by the Gardner Library any time for a different Caldecott-related hands-on activity each month, and be sure to check-out a Caldecott Medal winner while you are there!

Visit the Gardner Library or [www.jocolibrary.org](http://www.jocolibrary.org) to learn more.

**I-35 and Homestead Lane Interchange**

In early October, the Cities of Gardner and Edgerton officially opened Kansas' first diverging diamond interchange located at I-35 and Homestead Lane in southwest Johnson County.

The I-35 and Homestead Lane DDI project includes construction of the interchange and the reconstruction of Homestead Lane as a paved roadway from north of the interchange to the intersection of 199th Street in southwest Johnson County. Before interchange construction began, Homestead Lane was a gravel roadway with a bridge spanning I-35.

The new interchange will provide access to planned future development in the area, including the newly opened BNSF Intermodal Facility, Logistics Park, and warehouse facilities. In addition, the DDI will handle the expected 13,200 average daily traffic this year, with a projected 43,100 average daily traffic in 2040, with 24% of the traffic being trucks.

"The new DDI will provide enhanced safety and economic benefits for years to come," said Kansas Transportation Secretary Mike King. "The interchange will safely serve both the commuter as well as the significant truck traffic that will be generated from the BNSF Intermodal development for years to come."

The DDI is a unique form of diamond interchange in which the two directions of traffic on Homestead Lane cross to the opposite side of the road at each ramp intersection. This type of interchange allows for a two-phase traffic signal operation at the ramp intersections and significantly improves safety since left turn movements do not conflict with opposing through movements.

The \$36 million I-35 and Homestead Lane DDI Project was funded by KDOT's 10-year T-WORKS transportation program, including a \$14 million partnership contribution from Johnson County.



Pictured above, from left to right, are: *Ed Eilert, Johnson County Commission Chair; Mike King, Secretary of Transportation; Mayor Don Roberts, Edgerton; Mayor Chris Morrow, Gardner; Steve Schmidt, Burns & McDonnell; Bill Clarkson, Clarkson Construction*